

**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

On page 1, insert above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority to European Patent Application No. 03075882.5 filed March 25, 2003.--

On page 1, above line 1, but after the above priority claim, insert:

--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, above line 10, insert: Background of the Invention--

Paragraph on page 1, line 24, ending on page 2, line 6, has been amended as follows:

--To facilitate a continuous flow of powder coal from the pressurized powder coal storage vessel to the gasification reactor, the pressure in the pressurized powder coal storage vessel is desirably higher than the operating pressure inside the gasification reactor. Thus, a continuous supply of powder coal from the pressurized powder seal storage vessel to the gasification reactor is feasible, provided that the batch loading of the pressurized powder coal storage vessel occurs at sufficiently high repetition rate to replenish the supply.--

On page 3, above line 3, insert:-- Summary of the Invention--

On page 3, after line 18, insert:--Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will described hereinafter in more detail and by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 schematically shows a gasification plant including a sluice vessel in accordance with the invention;

Fig. 2 schematically shows a cross sectional view of a sluice vessel according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 3 schematically shows a detailed view of the indicated area in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4, schematically shows a second embodiment of the invention;

**Fig. 5, shows a side view (part a) and a front view (part b) of the inlet means in accordance with the embodiment of Fig. 4;**

**Fig. 6 schematically shows a cross sectional view of the inlet means in accordance with Fig. 5;**

**Fig. 7 schematically shows a detailed cross sectional view of a sluice vessel according to third and fourth embodiments of the invention.--**

**On page 3, above line 19, insert: Detailed Description of the Invention--**

**On page 8, delete lines 11-31.**

**On page 20, above line 1, insert --That which is claimed is:--**